

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 ACDA-19 SCCT-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 261330Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3666

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: ISRAELI VIEWS ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

1. JERUSALEM POST (AUGUST 25) PUBLISHED RESULTS OF POLL CONDUCTED BY INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH OF JERUSALEM, BASED ON TWO QUESTIONS: A) DO YOU SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT BASED ON COMPROMISE WITH THE ARABS, AND B)FOR WHICH PARTY DID YOU VOTE IN THE RECENT KNESSET ELECTION? SURVEY SHOWED THAT 70 PERCENT OF LABOR ALIGNMENT VOTERS AND 78 PERCENT OF LIKUD VOTERS WERE IN FAVOR OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT ON BASIS NOTED ABOVE. PROPORTIONS AMONG VOTERS OF OTHER PARTIES FOR A NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS 69 PERCENT. POLL WAS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH SELECTION OF 500 JEWISH VOTERS LIVING IN JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV, HAIFA AND BEERSHEBA.

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2. JERUSALEM POST ALSO PUBLISHED RESULTS OF DAHAF PUBLIC

OPINION POLL WHICH INDICATED THAT 45.7 PERCENT OF THE PUBLIC SUPPORTS "TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT WITH JORDAN," 36 PERCENT OPPOSE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS AND ANOTHER 18.3 PERCENT ARE UNDECIDED. SECOND QUESTION IN POLL CONCERNED AGREEMENT ON OPPOSITION TO MAKING CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK IN RETURN FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN. BREAKDOWN WAS AS FOLLOWS: 49.2 PERCENT SUPPORTED CONCESSIONS, 31.8 PERCENT WERE TOTALLY AGAINST CONCESSIONS AND 19 PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED.

3. COMMENTING ON FINDINGS OF DAHAF POLL, MAARIV WRITER MOSHE ZAK, (AUGUST 25) EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING DATA COLLECTED AND TRIED TO DISCREDIT ACCURACY OF FINDINGS. ZAK WRITES THAT "NO TELEPHONE SURVEY CAN DISRUPT THE CALCULATIONS OF RABIN'S GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL NOT WISH TO FACE THE ELECTORATE ONLY ON A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE JORDAN LINE, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT, WITHOUT A PEACE SETTLEMENT. BUT NO ONLY THE ELECTORAL CALCULATION, ALSO THE CALCULATION OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE AND MOVING AWAY FROM WAR, DICTATES TO THE RABIN GOVERNMENT (THE NECESSITY) TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE JORDANIAN MINE-FIELD, AND MAKE PROGRESS FIRST IN TALKS WITH EGYPT."

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE RELATIVELY SMALL SAMPLE AND ZAK'S DISCLAIMER, RESULTS OF THESE TWO POLLS CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION THAT SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ISRAELI PUBLIC IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT RABIN GOVERNMENT IN WORKING FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV04878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740236-0401
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740817/aaaaanvn.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI VIEWS ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005